FROM THE CITY OF VANCOUVER • DECEMBER 2008

CITYNEWS

CITY OF VANCOUVER

New Mayor and Council

On November 15, Vancouver elected a new Mayor and 10 Councillors for the 2008 – 2011 term. Mayor Gregor Robertson and the 10 City Councillors begin their three-year terms on December 8, 2008.

To get in touch with your Mayor and Council:

Mayor's Office: 604.873.7621
Councillors' Offices: 604.873.7273

e-mail: mayorandcouncil@vancouver.ca

mailing address: Mayor and Council
City of Vancouver, 453 West 12th Avenue
Vancouver, BC V5Y 1V4

Gregor Robertson,
Mayor of Vancouver

Also elected on November 15 were members of the Vancouver Park Board and Vancouver School Trustees.

PARK BOARD COMMISSIONERS

Contance Barnes
Sarah Blyth
Raj Hundal
Aaron Jasper
Stuart Mackinnon
Ian Robertson
Loretta Woodcock

SCHOOL TRUSTEES

Patti Bacchus
Al Blakey
Jane Bouey
Ken Clement
Ken Denike
Carol Gibson
Sharon Gregson
Mike Lombardi
Allan Wong

VANCOUVER'S CITY COUNCILLORS

Suzanne Anton

David Cadman

George Chow

Heather Deal

Kerry Jang

Raymond Louie

Geoff Meggs

Andrea Reimer

Tim Stevenson

Ellen Woodsworth

IT'S YOUR CITY. HAVE

YOUR CHANCE TO have a say in city government doesn't end with the election. The City of Vancouver is committed to being an accessible, accountable and inclusive government. Your views and comments are important to us.

Throughout the year, citizens in Vancouver have opportunities to share opinions and ideas on everything from the budget and proposed new developments, to neighbourhood planning and other city issues. There are lots of ways to get involved and be part of the civic decision-making process – meetings, open houses, surveys, or volunteer opportunities.

Get involved, and have your say!

How to get involved with your city

ATTEND OR WATCH COUNCIL MEETINGS

Council and committee meetings are scheduled regularly through the year and are open to the public. Agendas are posted approximately five days before the meeting.

For dates, agendas, and minutes: **vancouver.ca/councilmeetings**

Council meetings are broadcast on television in Vancouver on Tuesdays at 2 pm on Shaw Cable, Channel 4 and repeated on Saturdays at 12 noon on weeks meetings are held. Meetings are also streamed live online, and video clips related to an agenda item are linked in the minutes after the meeting.

Follow the links from: **vancouver.ca/councilmeetings**

SPEAK TO COUNCIL

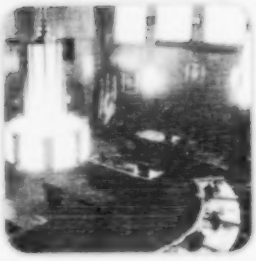
Anyone may ask to speak to Council about an item that's on the agenda for a meeting. Vancouver City Council conducts most of its official functions at these types of meetings:

Regular Council

These meetings involve all members of Council to deal with the general business of the City. If there are delegations (people who want to address Council) who request to speak to an item on the agenda, that item is usually referred to a Standing Committee meeting.

LEARN MORE ABOUT YOUR CITY
Our homepage is updated regularly to give you a round-up of the latest City news and events.
website: vancouver.ca
GET IN TOUCH WITH US
Find out how to contact City departments and staff.
website: vancouver.ca/intouch

YOUR SAY!



Standing Committees of Council

These meetings are made up of all members of Council to deal with civic business and hear delegations. The three Standing Committees are: Traffic and Transportation; City Services and Budgets; and Planning and Environment.

Public Hearings

Public hearings are held as needed to consider proposed zoning by-law changes, and give the public the chance to present any comments or concerns about them. The Mayor or Deputy Mayor chairs these meetings and at least six members of Council must be present.

Special Council Meetings

Council may schedule a special meeting to deal with emerging issues and hear from speakers.

Business Licence Hearings

Hearings are held to consider revoking or suspending licences belonging to businesses that may have conducted illegal activities on the premises or contravened other City by-laws. Members of the public may attend Business Licence Hearings but may not speak at them unless they have been scheduled to appear as a witness.

Courts of Revision

This type of special Council meeting reviews assessments related to local improvements such as new sidewalks or lane paving and hears from property owners on them. Members of the public may speak if their property is affected.

OPEN HOUSES AND FORUMS

Ads in community papers and online listings for open houses or forums are excellent sources for finding out what's going on in your city such as proposed changes to a neighbourhood, City policies or new initiatives.

website: vancouver.ca/events.cfm

TAKE A SURVEY

Online surveys are available on topics such as walking and cycling, liquor licence hours, and roadwork on an ongoing basis. Share your opinion from the convenience of a computer.

website: vancouver.ca/yoursay

JOIN AN ADVISORY GROUP

Becoming a volunteer member of one of the City's many advisory bodies is a way for you to contribute to how the City is run and serve your fellow citizens. The City issues calls annually for volunteer positions on the advisory bodies which range from public art and cycling to the city planning and heritage commissions. All the meetings of these civic agencies are also open to the public, unless otherwise specified. *website:* vancouver.ca/civicagencies

BE INVOLVED IN LOCAL IMPROVEMENTS

Local improvements are neighbourhood projects such as additions or upgrades to sidewalks, lighting or paving, initiated either by the City or by residents. Projects involve cost-sharing between the City and residents, and owners are given the opportunity to support or defeat a project. Find out how you can request an improvement in your area.

website: vancouver.ca/localimprovements

Learn more about the public involvement process at the City of Vancouver.

website: vancouver.ca/getinvolved ◆

CITY OF VANCOUVER CHOSEN AS TOP-RANKED EMPLOYER

The City of Vancouver has been named one of Canada's Top 100 Employers for 2009.

The top employers list, which recognizes employers who offer outstanding work environments, was chosen through a national competition by Mediacorp Canada Ltd., and published in *Maclean's* magazine this fall.

Entries were evaluated on eight different criteria: physical workplace; work and social atmosphere; health, financial and family benefits; vacation and time off; employee communications; performance management; training and skills development; and community involvement.

The City was cited for many of its employee programs including: educational and professional development courses, employee discounts for Park Board pools, rinks and fitness centres, flexible work arrangements, and an earned-day-off program.

As an employer, the City of Vancouver has more than 9,000 staff covering City Hall, the Vancouver Board of Parks and Recreation, Vancouver Fire and Rescue Services, Vancouver Police Department, and Vancouver Public Library. It's the largest municipal government employer in B.C.

Working for the City of Vancouver means working for an organization that in one way or another affects the lives of Vancouver residents daily, improving lives and communities. Our work provides essential services, solves civic problems, and plans for the future for our city. It's an exciting time to be a part of the City's team as Vancouver goes through this unprecedented period of change and gets ready to host the 2010 Olympic and Paralympic Winter Games.

Find out more about working for the City: **vancouver.ca/jobs** ◆

STANLEY PARK AND YOU

How did logging in the 1800s help create the park as we know it today? What creatures inhabit the park's extensive shoreline? Why did Brockton Oval become the site of Vancouver's first athletic fields? Thirty-six colourful, illustrated panels have recently been installed around the park that illustrate some of these fascinating stories. In an accessible, engaging style, the panels bring the park's history, ecology and geology to life. A self-guided brochure about the panels is available at the Information Booth in Stanley Park and can also be downloaded from: **vancouverparks.ca.**

BE PART OF THE EXHIBIT

Do you have old family photos, videos, or other images from a visit to Stanley Park? You're invited to be a part of *The Unnatural History of Stanley Park*, a special exhibit presented by the Vancouver Museum and the Vancouver Board of Parks and Recreation to celebrate the park's 120th birthday and take a fresh look at the history of Vancouver's first park.

The unique exhibit, in both English and Chinese, showcases souvenirs collected by park visitors over 120 years, behind-the-scenes stories of the park's plants, animals, people and landmarks, and a selection of proposals to "improve" Stanley Park, a list that includes the bizarre to the sublime.

You can share your own images and videos of Stanley Park by adding them to the Vancouver Museum's accounts on Flickr or YouTube. Images will be projected in random sequence and streamed into the interactive gallery at the Museum's exhibit.

Find out how to share your images and video: **www.vanmuseum.bc.ca** ◆

JOIN VANCOUVER'S FINEST

If you've ever considered becoming one of "Vancouver's Finest", there's never been a better time. The Vancouver Police Department is conducting a search for more than 110 men and women to join its team, as part of the most extensive and aggressive recruiting campaign in its history.

Dubbed "Operation Search and Employ", the recruitment drive has the VPD looking beyond conventional methods, and exploring innovative new recruiting strategies. To reach young recruits, the VPD is the first major Canadian police department to have a profile on YouTube and Facebook. It has also hosted a recruiting information session on Second Life, a virtual reality site and social network, making it the first police department in the world to do so. Flying an airplane banner and imbedding a newspaper reporter for a news story on the application process are among the other creative strategies the VPD has used to attract new members. In the past eight months, the VPD has doubled the number of police applications from the same period a year ago, and has generated international media stories on their outside-the-box recruitment methods.

To learn more about how you can become one of Vancouver's Finest, visit: **www.vpd.ca** ◆

IN TOUCH WITH THE CITY

vancouver.ca/intouch

MULTILINGUAL PHONE LINES

For more information about the City in these languages, call:

資料查詢 604.871.6868
ਜਾਣਕਾਰੀ ਲਵੋ 604.871.6565
Hỏi chi tiết 604.871.6969
Obtenga información 604.871.6464

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